

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The catalyst of claim ~~2-31~~ wherein the metal oxide comprises strontium oxide.

4. (Previously presented) The catalyst of claim 31 wherein the carrier comprises a refractive ceramic or metal monolith having a honeycomb structure.

5. (Original) The catalyst of claim 4 wherein the ceramic monolith is selected from the group consisting of cordierite, cordierite-alpha alumina, silicon nitride, zircon mullite, spodumene, alumina-silica magnesia, zircon silicate, sillimanite, magnesium silicates, zircon petalite, alpha alumina and aluminosilicates.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The catalyst of claim 31 wherein the Group IIa metal oxide is dispersed on the carrier in a loading of about 0.005 to about 1.0 g/in³ of carrier.

9. (Original) The catalyst of claim 8 wherein the Group IIa metal oxide is dispersed on the carrier in a loading of 0.1 to 0.6 g/in³ of carrier.

10. (Currently Amended) A hydrogen sulfide suppressing catalyst comprising a Group IIa metal oxide and ~~The catalyst of claim 31 wherein~~

the undercoat further comprises a lanthanum oxide undercoat disposed on a carrier, and a topcoat discrete layer segregated from, and disposed on, the undercoat comprising a three-way conversion catalyst material overlying the undercoat.

11. (Original) The catalyst of claim 10 wherein the lanthanum oxide is present in a loading of about 0.005 to about 1.0 g/in³ of carrier.

12. (Original) The catalyst of claim 11 wherein the lanthanum oxide is present in a loading of 0.2 to 0.6 g/in³ of carrier.

13. (Previously presented) The catalyst of claim 31 wherein the top coat comprises a middle layer overlying the undercoat and an upper layer overlying the middle layer.

14. (Previously presented) The catalyst of claim 31 wherein the three-way conversion catalyst material comprises a platinum-group metal catalytic component.

15. (Previously presented) The catalyst of claim 31 wherein the platinum-group metal catalytic component is selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, rhodium and mixtures thereof.

16. (Original) The catalyst of claim 15 wherein the platinum-group metal catalytic component comprises a mixture of platinum and rhodium.

17. (Previously presented) The catalyst of claim 16 wherein the platinum and rhodium are present in the mixture in a molar ratio of about 0.2 to about 20 moles of platinum per mole of rhodium.

18. (Canceled) ~~The catalyst of claim 17 wherein the platinum and rhodium are present in the mixture in a molar ratio of 1 to 5 moles of platinum per mole of rhodium.~~

19. (Original) The catalyst of claim 14 wherein the platinum-group metal catalytic component is present in a loading of about 10 to about 200 g/ft³ of carrier

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The catalyst of claim 31 wherein the three-way conversion catalyst material ~~is dispersed on~~comprises a refractory metal oxide support.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) The catalyst of claim ~~23~~21 wherein the support comprises gamma alumina.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The catalyst of claim 31 wherein the topcoat further comprises a binder.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A layered catalyst comprising:

(a) a carrier;

(b) an ~~underlayer-undercoat consisting essentially comprising~~ of a Group IIa metal oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide, calcium oxide and strontium oxide and mixtures thereof disposed directly on the carrier as a soluble Group IIa metal and then formed into the Group IIa metal oxide; and

(c) at least one topcoat discrete layer segregated from, and disposed on, the ~~undercoat~~underlayer, said topcoat layer ~~consisting essentially comprising of~~ at least one layer of a three-way conversion catalyst material in the absence of a Group IIa metal oxide.